

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. 117

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Concerning United Nations General Assembly
Resolution E/1995/10/6.

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Whereas in an Emergency Special Session, the United Nations General Assembly voted on February 9, 1999, to pass Resolution ES-10/6, Illegal Israeli Actions In Occupied East Jerusalem And The Rest Of The Occupied Palestinian Territory, to convene for the first time in 50 years the parties of the Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Civilians in Time of War;

Whereas such resolution singles out Israel for unprecedented enforcement proceedings, which have never been invoked, even against governments with records of massive violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention;

Whereas such resolution unfairly places full blame for the deterioration of the Middle East Peace Process on Israel and dangerously politicizes the Fourth Geneva Convention, which was established to address humanitarian crises; and

Whereas such vote, initiated by the Arab Group at the behest of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), serves to prejudge and undercut direct negotiations, puts added and undue pressure on Israel to influence the results of those negotiations, and contravenes the written commitment that Yasser Arafat gave to then Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin that issues of permanent status would only be dealt with directly by the parties: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That the Congress—*

3 (1) commends the Department of State for the
4 vote of the United States against United Nations
5 General Assembly Resolution ES-10/6 affirming
6 that the text of such resolution politicizes the
7 Fourth Geneva Convention for the Protection of Ci-
8 vilians in Time of War which was primarily humani-
9 tarian in nature;

10 (2) urges the Department of State to continue
11 its efforts against convening and participating in the

1 conference, which is scheduled to be held in Geneva,
2 Switzerland, on July 15, 1999;

3 (3) urges the member states of the United Na-
4 tions to vigorously oppose any and all efforts to ma-
5 nipulate the Fourth Geneva Convention for the pur-
6 pose of attacking Israel; and

7 (4) urges United Nations Secretary General
8 Kofi Annan and Switzerland, which serves as the de-
9 pository of the Fourth Geneva Convention, to refrain
10 from assisting in the convening of the conference.

Passed the House of Representatives July 12, 1999.

Attest:

Clerk.